

INTERESTING FROM WASHINGTON.

Yesterday's Proceedings in Congress.

Passage of the Enrollment Bill in the Senate.

Vote of Thanks to Our Generals and Their Officers and Men.

Revival of the Committee on the Conduct of the War.

Proposal to Abolish the Import Duty on Printing Paper.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1864.

THE PROPOSED EMANCIPATION BUREAU.

The bill of Senator Howe, establishing a bureau of emancipation, and which was referred to a select committee, proposed to place it under the Secretary of the Treasury. The Commissioner's salary is limited to \$4,000. He is empowered to execute all military orders, executive proclamations and laws affecting the freedom of persons of African descent in any State or territory of the United States, to seize all real estate of rebels subject to confiscation, and institute and prosecute proceedings necessary to complete the confiscation and hold and control the same until disposed of by absolute sale, pre-emption or redemption. All negroes within our military lines excepting such as are required in the service are subject to be delivered to the Commissioner when they become works of the government, to be protected further legislation is had in the premises. He is authorized to establish protected armed occupancies upon lands in his control, providing that the proportion of the occupants shall not exceed one hundred loyal whites to one thousand freedmen. The military are required to render the necessary assistance in obtaining possession of the rebel property to be confiscated. Provision is made for the establishment of schools, subject to revision by the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Commission is empowered to lease the lands in their possession, and a receiver of the revenue from such property to be appointed, with a salary not exceeding three thousand dollars. The Commissioner is required to hire out or apprentice to mechanical trades freedmen and their families, and provide them with food, clothing and shelter, and they shall have the same rights and civil and military courts as citizens of the United States; and such as can read and write the English language on the 1st day of January, A. D. 1865, are hereby declared citizens of the United States.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

The Senate today confirmed the following nominations:—
John G. Butler, of Pennsylvania, as chief clerk of the Philadelphia mint, vice John G. Butler, deceased.
Benjamin L. Martin, assayer in the San Francisco mint, vice William H. Martin, deceased.
Thomas H. C. Clay, of Kentucky, as Minister Resident to the Republic of Honduras, vice James Partridge, deceased.
Thompson P. Chandler, of Massachusetts, Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Boston, vice Ezra Lincoln, deceased.
Hugh McCulloch, of Indiana, Comptroller of the Currency, vice Vincent, deceased.
Charles M. Smith, of Indiana, Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, vice John C. Underwood, resigned.
S. J. W. Tabor, of Iowa, Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, vice Harrison, resigned.
Albert S. White, of Indiana, Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Indiana, vice Smith, deceased.
Stephen D. Redhead, of the District of Columbia, Second Comptroller of the Treasury, vice Vincent, deceased.
Henry Hammond, of Connecticut, Marshal for the District of Connecticut, vice Vincent, deceased.
Robert B. Swain, Superintendent of the Branch Mint at San Francisco, vice Stevens, resigned.
Jules K. W. Wilson, of Wisconsin, Minister Resident at Rome, vice Briggs, resigned.
Henry B. Rice, of New York, Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, vice Hayward Taylor, resigned.
M. Briggs, of Massachusetts, Secretary of Legation at Brazil, vice Briggs, resigned.

ANOTHER CASE OF RESTITUTION.

The Secretary of the Treasury received to-day eight dollars from an unknown source, the note conveying it simply saying:—"The enclosed belongs to the United States Treasury. Eight dollars. Restitution."

RAILROAD BONDS ISSUED BY COUNTIES.

The Supreme Court of the United States to-day, in a case where a county issued bonds as subscription to a railroad, they being in accordance with a law of the State, decided that the county was not liable for the bonds.

PENNSYLVANIA'S CLAIMS FOR REPELLED REBEL INVADERS.

The Second Auditor of the Treasury, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, has prepared and submitted a statement relative to the claim of Pennsylvania to the sum of six hundred and seventy-one thousand four hundred and twenty-six dollars, for the service of the ninety days troops during the rebel invasion of that State, from which it appears that they were called out by proclamation of the Governor and discharged by him, having never been mustered into the service of the United States.

THE CONTENTED SEAT FOR DAKOTA TERRITORY.

The report of the House Select Committee on the Disputed Election, admitting one of the contestants, Mr. Janes, to the seat pro tem, but without prejudice to the claim of Mr. Todd, is rather a singular view. The circumstances of the case are no less singular. Mr. Janes having signed his own certificate, he having been at the time of the election Acting Governor of the Territory. Mr. Todd received a majority of the votes cast in all but one district, in which it is claimed that the majority for Janes was large enough to overcome the other majorities and elect him.

THE PROPOSED FREEDMEN'S COLONY IN TEXAS.

The bill of Senator Lane, of Kansas, to set apart a portion of the State of Texas for the use of persons of African descent, assigns them the region between the Colorado and the Rio Grande in Texas, in which they are allowed the privilege of the Homestead law. The officer in charge of colonization, hereafter to be appointed by the President, is charged with the execution of this act, and the appropriations heretofore made for colonization purposes are placed in the hands of the President to carry its provisions into effect.

WALL STREET OPERATIONS IN WASHINGTON.

Among other evidences of metropolitan progress, Washington is becoming quite as wild in respect to operations in stocks as Wall street. Reports of the prices at the board there are received here every half hour, and heavy speculations made. Some of the largest operations in New York daily are for Washington account, and many of the rings for buying or bearing are formed here. For the past few days some New York parties have been buying up, here and in Baltimore, Santa Clara quicksilver mining stock, with the view of transferring operations to New York, and placing it upon the regular stock list. The advance in the price of gold has evidently alarmed the bear interest in Wall street. A number of the leaders of that faction are here to ascertain what measure may be connected to arrest the upward tendency of that precious metal. They have been assured that the Secretary of the Treasury prefers that the products of the country, instead of gold, shall be exported to cover the excess of our imports, but so long as the price of government securities is not affected Mr. Chase, although not indifferent, regards the price of gold as secondary consideration. He is anxious, however, that measures may be devised to stimulate the exportation of produce to meet exchange.

THE BUSINESS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

Returns of cash sales of public lands for November, 1863, received at the General Land Office, from Stockton, California, show that the sales for that month amounted to \$5,484. In addition, 2,997 acres were taken up during that month under the Homestead law, and 430 acres were located by bounty land warrants. For December, 1863, the returns received to-day show that at John, Michigan, 4,408 acres were taken up under the Homestead

law, and that the cash receipts at that office for lands were \$1,077.

THE UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the United States Agricultural Society was held Wednesday last at the Smithsonian Institution. The following were elected: President, John P. Perley, Secretary, Joseph F. Brown, Treasurer, Executive Committee, Isaac Norton, Commissioner of Agriculture, John J. Jones, DeWitt, W. Smith, New Hampshire; Ward H. Lawson, Illinois; W. B. Todd, District of Columbia; James S. Grinnell, Massachusetts; J. R. Dodge, Ohio. Resolutions were adopted favoring an exhibition of stock, agricultural machines, products of the soil, wool, products of sorghum, native wines, &c. A resolution commending the system for the collection of statistics adopted by the Department of Agriculture and publication of Reports. The meeting adjourned till the 24th of February.

LIEUTENANT HOLLOWAY CAPTURED BY THE REBELS.

Information was received here to-day that day before yesterday Lieutenant Holloway, son of the Commissioner of Patents, while on a foraging expedition, with thirty men from the Army of the Potomac, was captured by the enemy after a determined resistance, and is now en route for the Libby prison.

ARMY CHANGES.

Captain Frank W. Marston, of the Signal Corps of the Army of the Potomac, has been ordered to New Orleans as Chief Signal Officer of the Department of the Gulf.

THE SMALLPOX CASES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The average number of smallpox cases in the entire District of Columbia is stated to be about one thousand two hundred by the policemen engaged in making special inquiry.

NORTHERN AGENTS FOR THE RECRUITING OF NEGROES.

Five persons from the North have been arrested by the military authorities while engaged in recruiting negroes to fill up the quotas of distant States. They had succeeded in enlisting twenty men.

THE MILITARY PROTECTION OF OVERLAND EMIGRANTS.

The report of Captain Crawford on his operations in conducting an expedition for the protection of emigrants overland to the Pacific States and Territories says:—The settlements have extended so far up the Snake river, on the western slope of the Rocky mountains, that the journey between the eastern and western settlements is materially shortened, and a recent establishment of a short distance for emigrants to travel unprotected. There was only one instance of molestation by Indians last year. From personal observation of the mines of the Snake river, Captain Crawford is satisfied they are fully open in richness to any ever discovered in California, and he has no doubt by next June there will be within the limits of Idaho Territory a population of ten thousand souls.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

The National Academy of Science has concluded its labors, and adjourned till the 1st of August.

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVOST MARCHAL'S BUREAU.

Dr. J. R. Baxter, formerly in charge of Campbell Hospital, has been appointed Chief of the Medical Department of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.

Edward Smith, Ninth New York artillery; H. Stoo, Second New York artillery; R. P. Parker, Tenth New York artillery; G. S. Prosser, Ninth New York artillery, and Thomas Farrell, Second New York Veterans cavalry, have died in this city during the past week.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

The ladies who are conducting the sanitary commission affairs are desirous that George Francis Train should lecture in behalf of the association. They have been unable to procure the use of the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose, although it has been lately used indiscriminately; but the lecture will of course be deferred.

NAVAL COURT MARTIAL.

By order of the Secretary of the Navy, a court of inquiry has been convened in this city for the purpose of investigating the facts connected with the publication of the letter of Commodore Wilkes to Secretary Welles, dated December 11, in the New York Times of December 18, said letter being in reply to the strictures contained in the Secretary's annual report upon Wilkes' management in the case of the Vanderbilt, sent in pursuit of the Alabama, such publication being contrary to the rules of the Navy Department.

PETITION TO THE TREASURY GENERAL.

The citizens of Collierville are uniting in a petition to the rebel General Lee for the restoration to our Medical Department of an ambulance and horse taken from two ladies on last Monday, while visiting a sick relative outside our lines. The ladies had obtained the wagon upon the representation that the invalid was a rebel doctor, and suffering for want of attention. The friends of the sick man, however, availed themselves of the opportunity to transport him to the hospital of the rebel army, and kept the ambulance.

ALLEGED FRAUDS OF A PROVOST MARCHAL.

Captain W. W. White, Provost Marshal of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania District (Williamsport), has been dismissed the service, and arrested and lodged in the Old Capital prison, for alleged frauds in the business of his office.

THE THIRD NEW JERSEY CAVALRY.

Lieutenant Colonel C. C. Suydam, of the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac, on Major General Sherman's staff, has received his commission to accept the lieutenant colonel of the Third New Jersey cavalry, commanded by Colonel A. J. Morrison.

THE HOSPITAL INSPECTION BOARD.

Captain Benard, of General Aguir's staff, has been appointed on the Board of Inspectors of the government hospitals throughout the country.

ARMY ORDERS.

Dr. Baugh, Medical Director of the Nineteenth Army corps, has been ordered to report to the Surgeon General.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1864.

VACCINATION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. HENNINGSON, (rep.) of Mo., introduced a resolution requiring the corporations of Georgetown and Washington to establish a general system of vaccination. Adopted.

THE REFORMATION OF EXHIBITIONS.

Mr. WILSON, (rep.) of Mass., reported a bill to promote exhibitions and for other purposes.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., introduced a bill to establish a Bureau of Emancipation. Referred to the select committee on slavery.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. SIMMONS, (rep.) of Mass., introduced a resolution to abolish the "color" qualification in carrying the mails.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. TAYLOR, (rep.) of Minn., offered a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Navy to communicate to the Senate the names of the officers who were appointed to the grades and ranks in the navy. Adopted.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. CHARLES, (rep.) of Mich., presented a memorial praying for the construction of a canal around Niagara Falls. Referred.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THANKS TO THE GENERALS OF THE ARMY AND THEIR OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS.

The joint resolutions of thanks to Major General's Hooker, Meade and Howard, and the officers and men of the Army of the Potomac, were adopted by the House.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. S. M. M., the resolution in relation to the prescribed date to be taken by Senators in the discharge of their duties was adopted.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BAYARD, (rep.) of Del., moved that after an extension of his speech upon the subject of the late Mr. Smith's resolution, he should be allowed to move that he should vote upon the resolution, believing it inadvisable in him to vote upon any measure upon which his future action might depend.

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The bill as amended was finally passed by the following vote:—

Yeas—Messrs. Anthony, C. C. Colman, Conness, Cowan, Davis, Dyer, Hendricks, Johnson, Lane, Kass, Keiser, McKim, Morrill, Pennington, Sherman, Sumner, Tappan, Van Winkle, Wade, Wiley, Wilson, &c.
Nays—Messrs. Buckner, Canine, Hendricks, Howe, Lane of Indiana, Powell, Salisbury, Williamson, &c.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO COMMODORE VANDERBILT.

The resolution of thanks to Commodore Vanderbilt for his gift of the steamship Vanderbilt to the government was adopted.

The Senate then went into executive session, and adjourned at half-past three o'clock.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1864.

THE USE OF THE HALL GRANTED TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Mr. KELLEY, (rep.) of Pa., offered a resolution that the use of the hall of the House of Representatives be granted to the Christian Commission for the holding of their anniversary meeting.

Mr. Cox, (rep.) of Ohio, objected to the motion, especially after what they had seen on Saturday night, when the hall was abused by a person of whom he need not speak.

A resolution of similar import, however, was subsequently adopted.

A PRAYER FOR PROGRESS.

Mr. DAWSON, (rep.) of Pa., offered the following:—

Whereas, a great civil war has broken out, which now afflicts the United States, and the most grievous of all calamities, producing, as it does, apostrophe, bloodshed, anarchy, public debt, official corruption and private immorality, and the American government cannot rightly consider such a war upon any portion of its people, except for the sole purpose of vindicating the constitution and laws, and restoring both to the just and true position of honor.

Whereas, the House, on the 22d day of July, 1863, speaking in the name of the American people, and in the face of the world, solemnly and truly declared that it was wrong for our government to continue to support a war upon any portion of its people, except for the sole purpose of vindicating the constitution and laws, and restoring both to the just and true position of honor.

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hall for political purposes, and request is as follows:

The SPEAKER, moved that the proposition be rejected. The motion was carried, and before the House adjourned to-day, the gentleman from Indiana having already offered another resolution, which was objected to.